measures towards devolution has been circulated to all the States/UTs for speedy implementation.

Environmental Clearance for Mumbai-Pune Expressway

890. PROF. RAM KAPSE:
SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have given the environmental clearance for the proposed Mumbai-Pune expressway; and

(b) whether it is a fact that the Union Government have shown their willingness to clear the project during the discussion between the State Government and the Prime Minister on the subject?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Environment & Forest has cleared part length of the proposed Mumbai-Pune Expressway from Environmental angle.

Road Accidents in Delhi

891. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether as reported in the Hindustan Times of 11th September, 1997, Delhi, with an average six road deaths every day, records the highest number of accidents in the country per year and one of highest in the world;

(b) if so, the number of road accidents in Delhi in 1995, 1996 and 1997 so far and the toll of human life claimed thereby; and

(c) the rasons for such a situation and the steps taken and planned to be taken up to curb the menace?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T. G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Report of National Highways in West Bengal

892. SHRI JIBON ROY:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the total National Highways in Km. in West Bengal;

(b) whether more than fifty per cent of the same is in bad condition and require immediate repair/rehabilitation' if so, the strench of National Highways, requiring repair in the State; and

(c) the action taken by Government in the form of plan and non-plan funds allocated in 1997-98 for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T. G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) The total length of National Highways in West Bengal is 1676 Kms.

(b) Reports of poor condition of Sections of National Highways i.e. NH 6, 2, 34 and 31 in West Bengal have been received. Repair and rehabilitation works, to keep the National Highways in traffic worthy condition within available resources, are in progress.

(c) Rs. 52 crores and Rs. 19.61 crores have been allocated as plan and non-plan funds for this purpose.

Funds for Strengthening of National Highways

893. SHRI JIBON ROY:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the demands for funds made by the States from his Ministry for strengthening, widening surface, improvement, new alignment and new bridges on National Highways during the last three years;

(b) the funds allotted during the above period;

(c) the funds demanded for non-plan works on National Highways by States during last three years; and